PRUDENTIAL BUILDING

Church and Pearl Streets, Buffalo

The last collaborative effort of its architects, Dankmar Adler and Louis Sullivan, the 1895 Prudential Building is considered a masterpiece of early skyscraper design. The clarity of its steel-frame skeleton is clearly expressed, and the tile and terra-cotta sheathing are covered with Sullivan's familiar flowing ornamentation: a perfect marriage of realism and romanticism. The exterior remains largely in its original condition, and because the surroundings are unencumbered, its soaring quality can still be appreciated and understood.